

Architalk



The Newsletter of AIA Northeast Illinois

May 2003

The CAD Strategy Dilemma: Which Path to Pursue?

Thursday,
May 22, 2003



Principals, IT managers and anyone interested in CAD software won't want to miss this year's AIA Northeast Illinois Tech Night on Thursday, May 22 at the Embassy Suites Hotel, Lombard. Jerry Bartels and Adam Lega, both from Seiler Instrument, will share their expertise and insight regarding CAD software.

It used to be that there were only a few choices in CAD software and all packages accomplished basically the same thing. Since Autodesk products began dominating the market, most firms have taken at least that leap and purchased licenses. Then came the upgrades, every year it seemed, to another version of the product with advertised improvements and enhancements for productivity. Along came another product; one not owned by Autodesk. This new product, Revit, entered the market and attempted to change the way we think about conventional CAD software. Revit presented a challenge to the Autodesk family. Seeing the potential of Revit to change the future of CAD, Autodesk purchased this technology and brought it under its own wing. Now, Autodesk is operating with two distinct CAD paths aimed at architects – AutoCAD Architectural Desktop (ADT) and Revit. Autodesk has recently released major upgrades / updates to both packages, with the announcement that one day, ADT will be phased out. In the meantime, Autodesk has revised its licensing program to one that is subscription-based.

What does all of this mean? Which way should you go? Upgrade? Switch? Use both? What is the 'subscription program' all about? Stay with basic AutoCAD? What makes sense? What do we need to do? Bring your questions, your concerns and your notepads! We aim to tackle the following questions:

- What's new in AutoCAD 2004 and AutoCAD Architectural Desktop 4?
- What's new in Autodesk Revit 5?
- What are the differences between ADT4 and Revit 5?
- What is this whole 'subscription program' about?
- What is the appropriate strategy for firms (*your* firm) to follow?

By comparing and contrasting the various software applications you will be able to make informed decisions regarding the right direction for your firm's software applications.

This 1 ½ hour program is eligible for 1.5 CES LUs. See page 8 for meeting details.

To compliment Tech Night's program, May's mini-seminar presentation will be a demonstration of Autodesk Architectural Studio, a conceptual design tool. This month's mini-seminar presenter is Seiler Instrument.

AIA Northeast Illinois Mission Statement

To celebrate and promote the profession of architecture, provide opportunities for professional growth, and improve the built environment.

(Volume 26, Number 5)

ARCHITALK is the monthly publication of AIA Northeast Illinois. Opinions expressed are those of the particular author and not necessarily those of the AIA/NEI. The information contained in this *Architalk* newsletter is general in nature and should not be considered a substitute for professional advice in specific situations. Advertising of products and services appearing in *Architalk* does not constitute endorsement by AIA/NEI.

Editorial deadline is the 10th day of each month prior to the distribution month. Direct questions, comments, articles and requests to reprint articles to: **Corda Murphy**, 412 Green Valley Drive, Naperville, Illinois 60540. Phone: 630/527-8550 FAX 630/357-4818 e-mail: AIA_NEI@mcc-services.com



President's Message

Since my last message the high tech coalition forces have invaded and gained reasonable control over Baghdad. This unbelievably fast intervention was accomplished by using laser guided missiles, remote drone flyers, and smart bombs. At times

this technological war can seem sterile and with no casualties. We know this is not the case and even with all of our advanced weaponry, this war still has human loss.

In a much less serious way, we cannot forget our humanity when using high tech tools in the design and in application to our built environments. The days of adjustable triangles and circle templates are long gone. The term computer aided drafting seems redundant. Is there any other way of drafting? We have electronic toolboxes, auto rendering, virtual modeling and many other systems that simplify and speed up the process of creating construction drawings. These high tech tools have helped architects remain competitive and at the same time have brought us much more sophisticated building design. Some of these concepts could not have been envisioned without the help of a computer. We have become separated from the inspirational spark of creation. Part of the humanity in design has been overwhelmed by the desire to push the limits of our ever advancing technological ability.

A career in architecture must be developed through a diverse apprenticeship. All too often, a graduate with a degree in architecture is pigeon holed into a computer workstation never to be heard from again. All of the expectations that were developed during college slowly erode during this "internship." The individual simply becomes an extension of his or her computer in what seems like a never-ending series of toggles, scrolls and double clicks. Where is the joy of craftsmanship, artistic talent and human engagement? These are the reasons one pursues architecture. Aspiring architects must be exposed to and experience all facets of a design firm.

Computer drafting and design are here to stay. We have all benefited from these tools and I am sure nobody would prefer to go back to the old drafting machines. Remember though that computers are just tools and the people who use them are still very human. They deserve the respect and opportunity that budding young designers, specification writers, construction managers and the like were given in the past.

Please join us for this month's Tech Night to further this discussion.

Daniel Bryan, AIA
AIA/NEI President
630-920-0777

Daniel Bryan

AIA Illinois Report

By Walter Hainsfurther, AIA
AIA Illinois Treasurer and NEI Chapter Delegate

On April 10, AIA Illinois' leadership stormed the state capitol at the start of their April Board Meeting. Board members, along with component presidents met with key state legislators to educate them on the AIA's critical legislative issues. Structural Work Act, School Construction and state budget issues topped the list. This was the first time that AIA Illinois board members and presidents made a concentrated effort to directly interface with the legislators and it made a tremendous impact.

It appears, as of this time, that the Structural Work Act will not be called before the legislature. Several of the Senator we have spoken to are reluctant to take up the issues and believe this is not the year to discuss it. In addition, the unions, which are one of the biggest proponents of the act, have a very full agenda which may preclude their pushing this item. However, as it has been said in the Iraq conflict, our toughest fighting may be ahead of us. We'll keep you informed.

Following the capitol visits, the third President's Roundtable was held. Leadership from each of the state's six chapters shared their views on a variety of topics ranging from membership issues to chapter boundaries, to chapter staffing. These meetings directly support AIA Illinois' mission to be a resource to its member chapters.

At the regular board meeting on Friday, we covered a great deal of territory, highlighted (in part) by welcoming Sarosh Saher, Associate AIA, as our new associate director. Sarosh has jumped right into the fray, working on issues related to the Livable Communities issue team.

The meeting was highlighted by a discussion of the newly minted budget proposal, which will attempt to close the 5 billion dollar budget gap (the state's not AIA Illinois'). Tim Anderson, Appropriations Director for Senate President Emil Jones, gave the board a primer on the budgeting process. Highlights of the governor's proposal include \$500 million for the school construction grant program and \$2.8 billion for CDB, to be used primarily for maintenance purposes. No tax on professional services is proposed, a clear victory for AIA Illinois' lobbying efforts. On

the negative side, we can look forward, at best, to having DPR pay an "administrative fee" to the general revenue fund for administering the design professional's dedicated fund. This fund, of which a portion of our license fees is appropriated for, handles the enforcement activities of DPR related to the design professions. The worst case scenario could see the state re-appropriating these funds for other purposes. It is also likely that the state will substantially increase the fees for maintaining your license. Amounts will be determined as the budget process proceeds over the month of May.

Two other potential fallouts of the budget are the elimination of funding for the Regional School Superintendent offices and the transfer of certain CDB personnel and tasks from CDB to the Governor's office of budget and management. AIA is concerned about both of those issues

The Office of Regional School Superintendent is responsible for administering and reviewing all school construction projects in their service area. Currently, there is a bill in the legislature (*HB 495, School Plan Reviews*) that would mandate that plans be provided to local building officials and certified plan reviewers for comment. Since the legislation makes no mention of the review and comment being consistent with applicable building codes, which often differ from local building codes, AIA Illinois opposes this legislation at this time. We are trying to work out a consensus based approach with the sponsors. Our own Dwain Lutzow, AIA is among those leading this effort.

Transferring CDB staff and activities to the governor's control could make the school construction process more political. While AIA Illinois generally favors allowing the state agency that has the professional expertise to manage projects such as the school construction program to be allowed to manage this program, being under the governor's auspices could result in additional funding and attention. We will continue monitoring the situation.

Speaking of monitoring, did you know AIA Illinois staff has reviewed 6,000 pieces of legislation and followed the progress of over 600 bills this year? By mid-April that number was down to a more manageable 300 or so. Among the key issues

Continued on page 4

AIA Illinois Report . . . continued

AIA Illinois is watching are:

Energy Codes

There were two bills related to energy efficiency introduced. One establishes ASHRAE 90.1 as the standard for all CDB projects. While CDB currently uses this standard as a policy, this bill would make it law. A second bill was introduced to establish a statewide Energy Building Code, implemented by the Illinois Building Commission and the CDB.

Design-Build

John Ochoa, AIA, has been working with the Project Delivery Task Team on this issue. A bill has been introduced to allow state construction agencies to utilize design-build as a project delivery method under a prescribed process. AIA Illinois has worked closely with the bill's proponents to modify the legislation to make it more acceptable to the profession.

Limitations of Liabilities

The trial lawyers are promoting legislation (B2552) to eliminate the statute of limitations on buildings with hazardous materials. More than a dozen groups, including AIA Illinois, are opposed to this bill, as we believe it would wipe out the current ten year statute of repose and the four year statute of limitations. These limitations have been law for over 20 years. AIA Illinois' position is that design professionals shouldn't be held responsible for what may be considered a hazardous material forever.

Structural Work Act

No bill has been introduced; however, there are a number of bills that could be amended to include the reinstatement language. AIA Illinois has been told by several legislators that the bill will not be called this year. There are several reasons this may happen. The primary reason is that the leading proponents, trial lawyers and unions, have very full agendas and are not pushing this right now. In

addition, in meetings with lawmakers, they are concerned about the effect this legislation will have on the construction industry. Additionally every Republican member of the Senate has signed an agreement to vote against the reinstatement.

While signs are proving hopeful, AIA Illinois and their coalition partners, remain vigilant on this matter and will not rest until the legislature adjourns for the year.

PAC Contributions

All of this good work is made easier by AIA Illinois' PAC, the Illinois Architects Political Action Committee (IAPAC). It allows us to say "thanks" to our friends in a very tangible way, by helping them with their campaigns.

By now, you may have received an appeal soliciting your contribution for IAPAC. If every member gives just \$10.00 this year, we will be able to increase our legislative outreach exponentially. Better yet, consider the example set by FGM, Inc. They have contributed \$25.00 for every member of their firm.

Consider what your practice would be like if AIA Illinois wasn't successful in their activities. Structural Work Act, Fee Based Selection, Unlicensed Practice would be the rule. Isn't that worth at least \$10.00? Please consider it carefully and respond by giving as much as you can.

Annual "Meeting"

Think that the Annual Meeting is just for AIA leadership? Think again! The AIA Illinois Annual Meeting offers a variety of learning opportunities for the entire membership. By attending the meeting, you will have the opportunity to fulfill your Continuing Education requirement for the entire year.

This year, Sustainable Design is the theme. We are pleased that Raphael Pelli, AIA is our keynote speaker. So mark your calendars now for AIA Illinois' annual meeting in Champaign on November 7 and 8.

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Impacting the Design Profession Through Continuing Education

by Thom Lowther, EdS, Director AIA/CES

Quantifiable documentation now shows that continuing education is effecting a major reshaping of professional development within the design profession. Documentation includes statistical baselines of continuing education programs assembled from the AIA/CES University of Oklahoma database, AIA national convention, and *2000-2002 AIA Firm Survey*. Reinforcing the validity of our findings is an 18-year study by the American Council on Pharmaceutical Education (ACPE), which also shows the effect of continuing professional education on job performance.

Unfortunately, albeit understandably, feedback from members and others often focuses on minimum requirements rather than enhanced job performance. Those who believe that continuing education in architecture means no more than meeting the AIA's annual continuing education requirement of 18 LU hours (8 hours of which must meet health, safety, and welfare requirements) or the minimum state mandatory continuing education (MCE) requirements, should stop and refocus on what the AIA elected leadership intended seven years ago when they implemented the AIA/CES: reinforcing the professional goal of life-long learning and developing a solid organizational structure to support architects' professional development.

Professional development: A statistical baseline

A 2000 study by Clemson University analyzed the continuing education programs from the AIA/CES University of Oklahoma database covering a period of activity from January 1, 1999 to July 1, 2000. The study results, which concentrated on architecture firms, were published in the *AIA 2001 CES Provider Manual*. The Clemson study was followed up by the *2000-2002 AIA Firm Survey*, which established a statistical baseline about continuing education within architecture firms.

The studies show that as the number of CES in-firm providers has grown from 25 in 1995 to 511 today, architects and firms are rethinking their current approach toward continuing education and training. Firms are now putting into place a systematic approach to developing quality educational

programming for their architects and engineers to make the best use of time and resources. For instance, instead of offering training programs because a product rep brings lunch, professional development specialists in architecture firms are using the identified needs of the firm as the basis for selecting which product rep or CES provider to invite into the firm.

Provider programs can still satisfy some of the AIA/CES requirements as well as some of the state's MCE requirements, and many will still provide a free lunch. However, a firm's professional development program now begins to look more like this: *Identified need(s) > LUs/MCE > and maybe even a lunch* rather than this:

Lunch > LUs/MCE > immediate need (maybe).

Professional development: A change of behavior

Statistics of continuing education programs taken by architects at the AIA national convention over the past 20 years show a change in the type of programs they choose. For years, the top-10-attended sessions at the AIA national conventions had been on presentation skills, marketing, leadership, and occasionally design issues. When the AIA and the state licensing boards began to require HSW as part of their MCE requirements, this pattern was broken. For the first time, during the 2000, 2001, and 2002 conventions, 3-5 of the top 10 attended programs were HSW-related. In 2001, the top attended program was "Mainstreaming Green" an HSW program by Peter L. Pfeiffer. (The AIA national convention continuing education statistics are published annually in the *AIA/CES Provider's Manual*.)

A recent report by the American Council on Pharmaceutical Education (ACPE) reviewed 99 studies conducted from 1975 to 1994, in which continuing professional education programs were evaluated. The study may have relevance to the AIA/CES program because the ACPE has an organizational structure similar to that of the AIA. The research study, "Continuing Medical Education

Continued on page 6

Impacting The Design Profession . . . continued and the Physician as a Learner,” headed by P.E. Mazmanian and D.A. Davis (*JAMA* 2002; Vol. 288), was designed to evaluate eight educational interventions on physician performance and health-care outcomes. Its primary question was “They may have received CE credit, but what have they learned, how have they developed professionally, and what will be the impact on their practice and their patients’ health care?”

The results, according to the article, showed that:

- 70 percent of studies evaluated reported a positive change in performance
- 48 percent of students evaluated a positive change in health-care outcomes.

(For additional information contact: ACPE Executive Director Peter H. Vlases, PharmD, BCPS. pvlases@acpe-accredit.org.)

Professional development or requirement? Some architects do pursue continuing education solely to meet their state licensing requirements for MCE or the AIA Continuing Education System (CES) requirements. As of March 2003, 26 states and 10 Canadian provinces have enacted MCE requirements. Seventeen other states are at various levels of legislative activity and 16 countries overseas now require MCE. The

average AIA member holds three state licenses, so the odds of holding a license within a state with a MCE requirement has increased dramatically from nine years ago, when only three states had enacted MCE. Anticipation of this trend in state licensing requirements by the AIA Board of Directors and convention delegates was one factor that led to development of the AIA/CES. By developing a structured program, the AIA is ensuring that the professional development requirements are, indeed, helping to set AIA members at the highest level of performance within the profession.

It doesn’t matter whether you call it continuing education units (CEU), learning units (LUs), professional development hours (PDH), or mandatory continuing education (MCE), each state and profession seems to create its own terms for its own professionals. Regardless, the states are trying to develop accountability for professionals, and continuing education is one way they have chosen to measure it. For architects, continuing education emphasizes professional learning and enables them to master new knowledge and skills, increase profitability, plan for the future, and responsibly meet the role society entrusts to a professional. Because of this,

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Call for Fellow Nominations

One of the highest honors that can be bestowed upon an AIA member is elevation to Fellowship. Advancement to the AIA College of Fellows is granted for excellence in one of the following areas: significant achievement in design, preservation, education, literature, and service to the profession and society. To be eligible for Fellowship, an architect must have been a member in good standing for 10 years.

We are now seeking recommendations for fellowship nominations. The Board of Directors will consider all recommendations at the June board meeting. Those nominated by the Chapter will be asked to submit applications to the AIA Fellows jury; however, any member meeting the College's criteria may submit a nomination directly to the jury.

All members are encouraged to recommend members for this honor. A letter of recommendation outlining a member's qualifications should be sent to the chapter office prior to June 13, 2003.

April Meeting Sponsor

THANK YOU

The Chapter would like to thank NEI affiliate member Mark Vormittag and Engineering Consulting Services, Ltd. for being the event sponsor of our April program which was held on April 10th.

Impacting The Design Profession . . . continued

continuing education has the potential to be one of the primary forces in the improvement and revitalization of professional development throughout the design profession.

Continuing education programs within the profession include AIA and CSI chapter meetings; in-firm lunch programs; distance education formats; and weekend conferences by universities, nonprofit organizations, manufactures, and government agencies. For a comprehensive list of continuing education programs, visit <http://www.aia.org/conted/> and select "CES Programs."

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Architalk Calendar

May

- 8-10 AIA National Convention
San Diego
- 12 *Architalk* deadline
- 15 *Architectural Precast Concrete Plant Seminar* *
Paxton, IL Manufacturing Plant
Sponsored by Concrete Technology Inc., a
member of the Precast/Prestressed Concrete
Institute
- 22 NEI Chapter Meeting
*The CAD Strategy Dilemma: Which Path to
Pursue?*
Embassy Suites Hotel, Lombard; 5:30 p.m.
– 9:30 p.m.
- 22 *Architectural Masonry Restoration Workshop* *
Tuckpointers Training Center, 1111 S.
Western Avenue, Chicago
Sponsored by International Masonry
Institute and Tuckpointers Local 52 BAC
- 27 AIA/NEI Board Meeting

June

- 10 *Architalk* deadline
- 10 NEI Chapter Meeting
Chicago Riverboat Tour
- 24 AIA/NEI Board Meeting

July

- 10 *Architalk* deadline
- 15 NEI Annual Golf Outing
Villa Olivia Country Club, Bartlett; 1:00 p.m.
- 17 AIA/NEI Board Meeting

Archmart

POSITION WANTED

University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign 2nd yr undergrad seeking summer employment at an architectural firm to gain experience outside of the classroom. Skilled in CAD, Architectural Desktop, modeling, board drafting, and Photoshop. Locally from west suburbs of Chicago (Addison). Willing and eager to learn. Contact: Jennifer Duffy, 773-320-3288 or jduffy@uiuc.edu .

Chapter Meeting Details

LOCATION:

Embassy Suites Hotel, 707 East Butterfield Road
Lombard

COST:

| | Pre-Paid | At Door |
|---|------------|---------|
| AIA Members and Others | \$25 | \$30 |
| Non-member Licensed Professionals | \$35 | \$40 |
| Student AIA Members | \$10 | \$10 |
| Student Non-members | \$15 | \$15 |

AGENDA:

- 5:30-6:30 Registration and Social Hour
- 6:30-7:00 Mini-Seminar
- 7:00-7:15 Announcements
- 7:15-8:00 Dinner
- 8:00-9:30 Program

MENU:

- Rosemary Chicken
- Twice Baked Potato
- Mixed Field Greens Salad
- New York Cheesecake

AIA/CES:

Attendees will be able to describe new CAD software features, compare and contrast CAD software, and evaluate the programs to determine what best meets their firm's needs. (1.5 LUs)

RESERVATION DEADLINE:

12 NOON Monday, May 19, 2003

RESERVATION POLICY:

Cancellations must be made no later than noon on the Monday before the chapter meeting to avoid being billed.

CHAPTER OFFICE:

PHONE: 630/527-8550

FAX: 630/357-4818

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Call for Entries . . .

Wood Design Awards 2003

The Wood Design Awards, sponsored by *Wood Design & Building* (U.S.) and *Wood Le Bois* (Canada) magazines, is the only North American program to award excellence in architecture in which wood plays a significant role. Categories include residential and non-residential buildings and interiors, both new and remodeled.

May 9 is the deadline to receive entries. Complete details and entry forms are found on the website: www.WoodDesignAwards.com. Questions may be addressed to: Don Griffith, Awards Coordinator at 800-520-6281, ext. 304; e-mail: dgriffith@janam.net.

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Thursday, May 22, 2003 Reservation Form

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| Student Non-members | \$15 | \$15 |

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Chapter Corner

CHAPTER NEWS

Engineering Consulting Services has made available a handout of the geotechnical program given April 10th at the “Geotechnical, Environmental and Construction Materials Testing Workshop.” Contact the chapter office if you would like a copy of the handout.

Any US-based company that would like to know about preparations for the 2008 Olympics in China can be added to the Olympics Hot Sheet mailing list, a free e-newsletter published by the U.S. Embassy – Beijing. To be added to the mailing list, send an email with your full contact information and business scope to Beijing.Office.Box@mail.doc.gov . For more information on the Olympics and other ways the U.S. Commercial Service can assist a company in China, please visit the website: www.buyusa.gov/china/en .

We'd like to hear from you! Members and member firms – please share your good news with the chapter. We'd love to hear if you've gotten married, had a baby, changed firms, started your own firm, or received an award, community appointment or recognition for an accomplishment. Member firms please let us know about project openings, firm recognition, location change or other news related to your firm.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

We are pleased to welcome the following new members.

Architect: **John Bierman** (ARCON Associates);
Gail Ann Goldstead (Anderson Mikos Architects)
Associate: **Jane Ostergaard** (College of DuPage)
Affiliate: **Arthur Chantler** (GCG Financial);
George Gipp (Tandem PES) **Dean MacMorris** (Night Light Landscape Illumination)

Advancement to Emeritus: **Richard Lehman**
Advancement to Architect: **Daniel Lesus** (Daniel Lesus Architects)

Unassigned: **Scott Conwell, AIA** (International Masonry Institute)

Transfer: **John Aldershof, Associate AIA** (Anderson Mikos Architects) from AIA Iowa

MEMBER NEWS

Steven Wright, AIA, has been named a partner at Dahlquist & Lutzow Architects Ltd.

Bob Homa, AIA, is currently with Cesario Builders in Warrenville

Kluber, Skahan + Associates, Inc. recently moved their office to a new location in Batavia.

Congratulations to **Ed Marcyn, AIA**, on his reelection to the Palos Park Village Board. This will be his third term on the board and will again be appointed as the Building Commissioner.

Rick McCarthy, AIA from BCA presented “An Architect’s Point of View” at the Public Library Association’s Spring Symposium in Chicago in March.

As part of a joint program, **Daniel Atilano, AIA** from BCA recently presented “Doing More with Less – Additions and Remodeling” at the IAPD/IPRA Conference in Chicago.

PHN Architects has received an “Excellence in Achievement” award from BoardRoom magazine. The firm was honored in one of the top categories, taking second-place honors as 2002 Clubhouse Architect of the Year.

The Durrant Group, Inc. in St. Charles is one of 12 Durrant offices that will be celebrating this year the 70th anniversary of the company.

Euclid Insurance Agencies has relocated their offices to Itasca.

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